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Bacon, Alexander Samuel

The military preparedness of a giant

Elmira, N.Y.

1916

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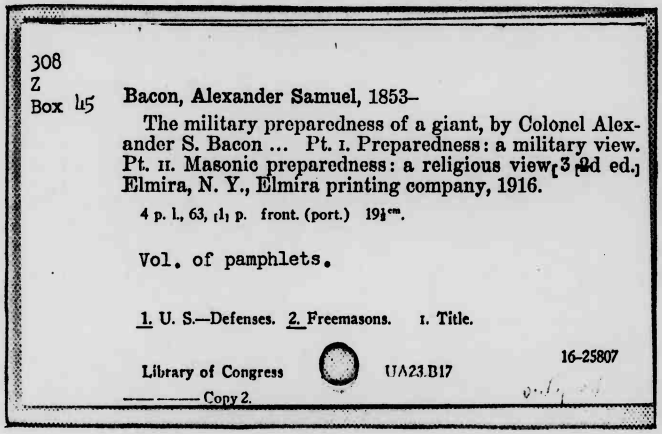

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The MILITARY PREPAREDNESS *of a* GIANT

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ALEXANDER S. BACON

Alexander S. Bacon

The MILITARY PREPAREDNESS *of a* GIANT

By

COLONEL ALEXANDER S. BACON
of the New York Bar,
West Point, '76.

Author of The Woolly Horse, The Illegal Trial of Christ, Mohammed & Islam, Ancient Calendars, &c., &c.

Part 1. PREPAREDNESS: a military view.

Part II. MASONIC PREPAREDNESS: a religious view.

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INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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THIRD EDITION

M13.1 May 2011

DEDICATED

...TO...

ALL RATIONAL AMERICANS

"Our first duty is to maintain peace;
Our next duty is to PREPARE for war."

"Better an army of sheep led by a lion than an army of lions led by a sheep."
Credited to Napoleon.

"O, it is excellent
To have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant."
Meas. for Meas. Act II, Scene 2.

JUST A FOREWORD.

The officers who fought in our Civil War have passed, or are fast passing over to the great majority. Most of what they saw in actual campaigning would mean little to Joffre or to Hindenburg. What they remember of it is vague. The "veterans" of the war with Spain learned little, save that health suffers in swampy camps; that a defective commisariat means misery for everybody; and that old fashioned Springfields with black powder on the firing line, against Mausers, wreck the best regulated temper. When we seek the knowledge on which a wise policy of national defence is to be based, we must depend on the men whom West Point has developed; and, preferably, on such of those men as have kept themselves in touch with the trend of American sentiment, which is a vastly important element in the problem to be solved.

That is why Colonel Alexander S. Bacon commands attention as a skilful and just critic of what is; a safe outliner of what ought to be. He is a West Pointer of the class of 1876, where he was graduated with both the highest Academic and Mil-

itary honors, and was retained as instructor in artillery tactics and practical astronomy. As a lieutenant of artillery, he served in the West and in the railroad "war" of 1877. He resigned from the army and was admitted to the bar, where he has achieved distinction in his practice extending to many states and foreign countries. He joined Brooklyn's crack regiment, the 23d, National Guard, in 1884. In 1889 he was made Colonel of the 2nd Provisional Regiment, consisting of separate companies of New York State, in order that all the companies might pass under his instruction in the encampment at Peekskill.

A wide traveler, a hunter of big game, a fearless, public-spirited citizen; a churchman trusted by his own communion; a Masonic student, writer and lecturer, and Potentate of Kismet Shrine; the mastering avocation of his life has been the study of the military art, past and present. Tactics, strategy, history of campaigns, and army equipment and organization, from Alexander's time up to Kitchener's, have for him a controlling fascination. No man is better qualified to say what is "preparedness" for America. We may all agree with Gibbon that one regular soldier to every 100 population is all that any country can well support in time of peace; but nobody advocates a million regulars for the United States, and we want expert and disinterested advice on how near to get to that proportion, or how far to keep away from it.

Colonel Bacon is rather proud of having been called "The Puritan of the Assembly" in his active Albany experience. His conscience is a New England conscience, though he was born in Michigan. As sensitive as Wendell Phillips or Phillips Brooks to the right and wrong of things; as practical as John A. Andrew in adapting means to ends; as immune to panic-fear as Charles Sumner; he realizes that our precautions against war emergency must be American precautions; that peace is our national aim, and that our grown men are rightly jealous of any encroachment of forced service on their homes and their daily activities. He sees in universal military training in schools the thing that will make dominant militarism forever impossible. If all men are trained to be soldiers no regular army can be a peril to liberty.

Yet, as conditions are now, he can perceive no justification for pessimism: "Have we preparedness for defensive warfare? yes-nearly; for offensive warfare? no-and we don't want it." There speaks the highest spirit of Americanism.

The world has progressed; and civilization has broadened and deepened, since Quintus Horatius Flaccus drank the wine and sang the praises of a Maecenas. It is still *dulce et decorum pro patria mori;* but it is sweeter and more seemly to live for one's country. Millions can do that for every one who can emulate John Brown of Ossawatomie upon the scaffold high; or seek the glory of the gallant Phil Kearney in the battle's van. That bed rock conception underlies all that Colonel Bacon has said in these pages on preparedness. With him, I trust and believe, that his words may be a fine inspiration to that self poised unselfish and non-aggressive confidence which alone becomes a nation so great as the United States of America.

JOHN ALDEN.

Eagle Office, Brooklyn, N. Y.
June 14, 1916.

THE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OF A GIANT

Part I

OUR FIRST DUTY IS TO MAINTAIN PEACE; OUR NEXT DUTY IS TO PREPARE FOR WAR.

A statement and a prophecy:—We are to-day, potentially, the most powerful military nation on earth—powerful in military resources and everything that tends to make us a world power and a dominant nation. This includes men, materials and

brains. After the exhaustion of the present war, we will be the only first class military power remaining, and all Europe would not dare attack. Better yet, no nation will **want** to attack us. They will seek to **imitate** us, not **fight** us. When, finally, they are exhausted with slaughter, disease, famine, pestilence and hunger; when they get good and hungry, their **peoples** will rise in their might, throw their war lords into the discard, and organize the United States of Europe, imitating the forty-eight sensible States which comprise the Great Republic of the West.

This will be the result of this world-war. God wills it. There will be no peace until both sides are exhausted—**and disgustcd with war.** In the final readjustment the United States will be a persuasive influence. Are we prepared, mentally, morally and physically, to be a world aribter?

It is one thing to be so prepared as to command respect, quite another to be so prepared as to inspire fear, engender hatreds, and be continually looking for trouble.

"O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

We are the richest nation of the world (187 billions, 1910); richer than France and England combined, before the war. We have a superabundance of military resources, including an intelligent and patriotic people, with military instincts, and an abundance of food and factories, capable of supplying all military necessities; but we are a Christian people and abhor war; and at the close of this world-horror, we will dictate peace to the world and dominate its policy so that the whole world will be practical republics where the people rule, and where secret treaties and wars among friendly peoples, instigated by ambitious rulers and the military class, will be impossible.

These statements will surprise many. Are they true? Read and see.

We plead guilty to characteristic American modesty, but can we make good the boast and **force** a fulfillment of the prophecy? If so, how shall we do it?

We have enormous military resources, but immature soldiers without discipline are a menace—a mob—a source of weakness, not strength. Military resources, unutilized or misdirected, are a temptation to attack, and not a bulwark of defense. Are

we in a position to utilize our strength? In other words, are we in condition to protect the Americas, command respect, and enforce, if necessary, international morality, and yet not so self-centered as to inspire antagonisms and weaken our influence for good? Have we

PREPAREDNESS ?

We answer:

For defensive warfare, yes—nearly;

For offensive warfare, no—and we don't want it.

Of what does military strength consist? We have no military class to force us into wars against our will. We make no secret treaties. The people rule. Our habit of minding our own business makes war improbable, and yet we have had a war of some sort every generation.

First and all-important, military strength requires a people inspired with a spirit of patriotism, self-sacrifice and love of country, with a military spirit and instincts. We have all these to excess. Americans are Chauvanists to the limit of endurance. That is, these traits would develop in a defensive war. The same traits would, however, oppose an offensive war, and overthrow any administration advo-

cating a war of aggression or aggrandisement. The American spirit of fair play would soon suppress any false patriotism. The United States is a Christian nation, and believes in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Modern wars must be backed by wealth: we are the wealthiest nation on earth—that now is or ever was. This wealth does not mean cash merely: it means military resources. We could feed, arm, clothe and equip the armies of the world: our resources are enormous.

What are the essential elements of a strong military establishment? We will name them in the order that we deem important:

1. A military genius to lead the army. Without this **one man,** clothed with plenary powers, all the others are useless.

2. A corps of highly educated military specialists.

3. An abundance of intelligent and educated subordinate officers.

4. Disciplined battalions, well armed.

5. Abundance of food, and factories for uniforms, equipments, arms and munitions.

In all of these five elements of military strength, except No. 3, we are, or soon

might be, the strongest military nation in the world, and under the suggestions of this brochure, we may soon supply the lack of an abundance of intelligent and educated subordinate officers.

We do not overlook the fact that our regular army is so small as to be negligible, although it is excellent as far as it goes. We will consider these elements of military strength in their order.

1. THE ONE MAN IDEA.

Better an army of sheep led by a lion than an army of lions led by a sheep.

What is the matter with the Allies? Old men. Too many cooks. Decentralized authority.

No army was ever small enough, or large enough, to be commanded by **two** men. In war, there must be **one** directing power, and if he be a genius, nine points of the game are already won—and he will seize the tenth point.

With an incompetent leader, the best troops are helpless. When a campaign goes wrong, it is **one man** that is to blame, if he has been given all the powers that rightfully belong to a commander.

Colonel Dodge, in his Military Histories, has conceded to the world but six Military

Geniuses—men who accomplished miracles, with comparatively slight resources. Indeed, they created their own military resources. These are Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great, and Napoleon.

There have been many great generals and very many good generals, but only six geniuses; and speaking of Napoleon, in his Italian campaigns, aged 27, he says: "He displayed the **heroic zeal** of an Alexander, the **intellectual subtlety** of a Hannibal, the **reckless self-confidence** of a Caesar, the **broad method** of a Gustavus, and the **heart of oak** of a Frederick."

Commanding officers, like poets, are born, not made. Or, rather, they are first born and then made. They must have the natural ability, and besides, years of training; for the science of war is the greatest of all sciences, in that it utilizes and absorbs every known science. To-day a great general must be a highly educated man, and instead of being a swashbuckler, with a sword in one hand and a revolver in the other, he is a student, devoting years and years to the acquiring of his profession, literally lying on his maps in a headquarters ten miles away from actual operations.

He must possess, either in his own person, or in his staff, a knowledge of all sciences, for modern warfare uses and subordinates to itself all known sciences.

A commanding officer should possess all the knowledge necessary to keep his command in health, strength and good nature, to move it with celerity, and to fight it with confidence; and to his technical knowledge must be added tact and that force of character which commands respect and inspires enthusiasm in his troops.

I am aware that generals often are blamed for the results of bad methods, and that the real censure should rest upon our bureau system, which is not only bad, but ridiculous. Who can imagine Caesar winning victories over the Helvetii by advancing the right wing instead of the left, in obedience to a message from a strategy board in Rome, or delaying his expedition into Britain while the Senate quarrelled over the selection of his quartermaster- and commissary-generals, and who might or might not favor him with transportation and supplies.

It takes years of specialized study to convert a natural born military genius in-

to a **useful** genius. Indeed, capacity for hard work is the principal index of genius.

Let us note in passing that all the greatest soldiers have been young men. "Old men for counsel, young men for war." Alexander's active military career began at 18 and ended at 33; Hannibal's extended from 13 to 47; Caesar's, 40 to 55;- Gustavus', 16 to 38; Frederick's, 28 to 51; Napoleon's, 27 to 46. Caesar was a subaltern at 20, and served in several campaigns before his active military career began. Every prominent general of the Civil War, was, I think, in 1861, under 45 years of age, excepting General Lee, who was 54. I know of no major-general in the recent Spanish War who was under 60 years of age.

The first axiom of war is "Action, **Action,** ACTION!" We might add, "Audacity, **Audacity,** AUDACITY!" and the aggressive initiative is rarely seen except in young men. They must, of course, have sufficient mental discipline, trained judgment and technical knowledge to convert recklessness into skill. I have no recollection of any great general in an active campaign who was over 60. The indefatigable Frederick fought what he called a war, extending over a year, when he was 66, but

it contained nothing but vexatious delays, no battles, and a treaty. How different from the Frederick of 28!

Napoleon was an old man at 40, when his downward career began. He was of a short-lived race, having lost five ancestors within a century. His father died at 38 of the same disease as his illustrious son. Napoleon once said of himself, when he was 35: "One has but a certain time for war. I shall be good for it but six years more: then even I shall have to stop." His words were apparently prophetic; for at about that time his star of success began to wane. The physical endurance of a military genius had gone. It is simply suicidal to place the command of active armies in the hands of an old man.

Every great general must have the body, spirit, and brains of a great soldier. A general should be sound in body. All great generals have displayed marvelous physical endurance. Many interesting examples might be cited. At 40, Napoleon Bonaparte had grown fat and lethargic. His brain never dimmed; but the body and spirit of a leader had departed. Had he retained at Waterloo the thin, wiry body of '96, he might have prevailed.

Every commanding general should have the **spirit** of a hero—that indefinable something which inspires his men with his own enthusiasm. An icicle has no place at the head of an army; for enthusiasm is worth many many rifles. Witness the patriotic Japanese marching rough-shod o.er the numberless battalions of phlegmatic China in 1894-5.

The greatest military asset is a great general, and we have no fear that America, possessing the largest number of highly educated military specialists in the world, would not develop a Military Genius in the event of a great national necessity.

But how is he to be discovered? Genius can never be suppressed if every officer has a fair show. Politics is the natural born enemy of genius. He would never come to the front until after patriotism had suppressed the politicians.

Politics must be eliminated from the army.

2. A CORPS OF HIGHLY EDUCATED MILITARY SPECIALISTS.

As to this military resource, the United States is the best equipped of any nation. General Washington appreciated the necessity for trained military specialists

when he recommended the establishment of a military academy. No nation of Europe has any institution that pretends to compete with West Point, which, in a course of four years of most arduous labor, turns out disciplined minds, filled not only with military technique but with a general knowledge of the sciences, which fact permits them to acquire skill in any new science or invention that may become necessary in war.

Add to West Point our various Post-graduate Service Schools and the War College, and we have the best possible development of our Second Point on military resources.

In the event of a military crisis that should require an army of a million or ten million men, our West Pointers would immediately be absorbed in the command of brigades, divisions and army corps, and in the scientific departments.

In the possession of a large corps of highly educated military specialists, the United States is the most resourceful nation in the world, and in time of peace they should be utilized in training subordinate officers as indicated in Point 3.

In a nation of free men, of whom "each

one resembled the children of a king" (Judges vii, 18) and thousands of whom have devoted a lifetime in acquiring mental discipline, inventive genius, and specialized military knowledge, we have no doubt that a national crisis would develop a Military Genius. At least, the elements are at hand and the probabilities the best.

But politics must first be eliminated from the Army.

3. AN ABUNDANCE OF INTELLIGENT AND EDUCATED SUBORDINATE OFFICERS.

Here we are weak—almost deficient.

Every million of men in an army will require about 42,000 officers, or about one officer to each 24 men. There should be at least half a million of men in the country competent to take commissions and to drill volunteers and mould them quickly into shape. Competent officers must be EDUCATED MEN. Education connotes mental discipline and ripened judgment. These officers do not necessarily need to be military specialists.

European armies apparently show their second greatest weakness in want of educated officers. Their first weakness is in the lack of some young man with aggres-

sive initiative, who is a born military genius, and who has devoted his whole life arduously to the accumulation of military knowledge, and who is given absolute control of the situation.

After there have been sufficient disasters, due to the inertia and ignorance of **Commanding Bureaus,** patriotism and dire necessity will put in absolute command some competent young man who will "start things," and by "starting something" will end everything.

In getting officers, we must start out with the correct material. You can't make a locomotive out of a basswood stick. Don't think that you can make a soldier in a month of "play soldier." Don't think that you can make good officers out of old men or politicians. Every Senator's son who can ride a horse three blocks without falling off thinks himself competent to command a regiment of cavalry. On the commencement of war, it will take six months of defeat to send the old men back to their slippers, and politicians' sons back to their mothers. We must start out with educated brains that have already learned how to think and to study.

We suggest the following as a practical

method of obtaining, within a very few years, a half million of trained officers:

Have every grammar school and high school devote two hours each week to military drill and rifle practice. It would benefit the lads enormously in many directions, and would be a pleasing diversion. They would soon prefer it to football. Let them receive once a month a lecture from some army officer, teaching them, in the beginning, the simpler matters relating to the care of themselves; their food and its preparation; their feet and their care; first aid to the injured, and first lessons in military science.

On graduating from high school each lad is without business restraints, and could easily and pleasurably spend four or six months in a scientific military encampment. Such an encampment should be miles from any city, and especially from any hotel with its distractions of society. They should be taught that the military art is the greatest of all arts, and its acquisition is laborious. The tango is no part of military science. All branches of the regular army should be centered there, and the time should be spent in the most exacting military discipline, eti-

quette, target practice in all arms, drills, lectures and lessons in strategy, tactics, logistics and military engineering.

The high school lad, fresh from his studies and eight years of drill, would, in six months of severe application, store up an amount of good health and military learning that would last him through life. On graduating satisfactorily from this encampment, he should be given Certificate A, indicating that he is eligible as a company officer.

This encampment and its certificate would soon become a coveted prize, and would be an inspiration for many a boy to press on to graduation rather than fall by the wayside and lose the distinction and benefits accruing through life in possessing so valuable a "degree."

Pursue the same methods with the colleges. Two hours' drill a week, with occasional lectures on strategy, military engineering and other technical military subjects. After graduation, the young man has no cares of business and would welcome six months on the plains in a scientific military encampment where he would be well fed, well clothed and reasonably well paid. His course of lectures and stud-

ies would necessarily be more technical than those given to the high school graduates. Give the college men, on graduation, Certificate B, making them eligible as field officers, even to the command of regiments.

Most important of all, take the graduates of the technical schools, who have taken special studies in engineering, mining, electricity, medicine, surgery, chemistry, law, political economy, journalism, railroading and business management—in other words, those who have prepared themselves along special lines for business and professional efficiency and in executive positions. All of these young men, who have been fitted for business specialties, should be induced to enter these camps, and while acquiring all of the military technique given to the college graduate, they should be especially instructed in the department to which they have devoted their specialized energies. To these should be given Certificate C, indicating their specialty and their elegibility to the higher commands and to the staff corps.

We do not suggest what means should be taken to induce the schools and colleges to carry out this programme, but we have no doubt whatever that they would readily

fall in with such a scheme, if adopted by the government, and if competent officers were assigned to them as drill masters and lecturers. Quick results would be seen in better scholarship, better discipline and better physique of the students, while the instilling of the "ideals of the old army" in matters of honor would be moral instruction second only to that of the church. They would be better citizens, and especially more implicitly obedient to law.

This scheme would turn out, within a few years, say 50,000 educated officers per annum. This is a reasonable guess. This plan would not interfere seriously with a business or professional education or career, neither would it make professional soldiers, itching for war to give promotion and glory.

Twenty-five years ago certain National Guard regiments were composed of a class competent to become officers. If a young man was athletically inclined, he was obliged to turn to a regiment to satisfy his desires. Now, recruiting is much more difficult because clubs and Young Men's Christian Associations have gymnasiums and athletic classes, that compete with the regiments, and most National Guard regi-

ments do not have a rank and file of sufficient preliminary education to make competent officers. Some educated men are impractical fools, but, generally speaking, study gives mental strength and good judgment as well as the mere accumulation of knowledge. The greatest benefit of a college course is education, not knowledge.

The American people will not endorse a large standing army. It is un-American. It is chasing rainbows even to suggest it. Typical Americans **will not** enlist, and a conscription would produce a revolution. Besides, what is the difference between a Military European Kingdom and a Military American Republic, if our young men have to be kidnapped out of useful business or mechanical pursuits and paraded on the Avenue for the benefit of nurses and children? No real American wishes to be a "hired man" all his life. No real American delights in the irksome discipline of army life in times of peace. He prefers to go out and conquer his way in the world in competition with his fellows. A large standing army would not produce competent officers, and officers are the one great necessity.

Two hundred thousand officers and men,

with an excess of officers, would seem to be a reasonable standing army in times of peace. As infantrymen display special aptitude, they should be transferred to the cavalry, and if they have a mechanical bent of mind, they should be transferred to the artillery, which, in both light and heavy batteries, should be increased rather than the infantry and cavalry, which can be trained sooner than artillerymen.

The artillery is a scientific branch, and a good artilleryman cannot be made over night. Especial attention should be given to this corps, its enlistment, encouragement and efficiency. Only the brightest and most highly educated officers should be assigned to it. At the close of the Civil War, any volunteer officer who had been wounded so severely that he could not walk was transferred to the artillery.

The morale of the army must be strengthened also. Since the Spanish War, our army has drifted away from its former high ideals. Then, the use of any political or social influence to attain preferment was considered dishonorable, and would subject an officer to social ostracism. Now, the Army has become a political machine

and like all political machines, subject to the baneful influence of Big Business.

Politics must be eliminated from the army.

After the cruelly unjust disbanding of a battalion of colored troops after the Brownsville affair, President Roosevelt simply **had** to control the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. The price demanded was high, but it was paid. A son-in-law of the Chairman, an inconspicuous captain of cavalry, who had already been sent to Manila for his wedding tour, was made a brigadier general over the heads of 862 seniors. Funston was made a general because Aguinaldo captured himself. McArthur was made a major general for conspicuous bravery at the **sham battle** of the City of Manila, that had capitulated to Admiral Dewey one week before. Is it any wonder that "the spirit of the old army" has disappeared and political pull has supplanted merit?

Politics must be eliminated from the army.

At West Point when General Grant was President, General Ruger, Superintendent, and General Upton, Commandant, even the President's relatives were found deficient

and dismissed. The son of a Wall Street magnate or of a distinguished father had no advantage over the son of a Kansas farmer, except with his fellow cadets who saw to it that he got enough extra "rough house" to take every spark of conceit out of him. The discipline of this era was more severe than in the armies of Frederick the Great. A cadet's life was arduous; it was work, work, work —no time for trifling games; no foot ball, no tennis; no hops during the months in barracks devoted to study; but the ladies were very much in evidence during the summer. ANY cadet who fell below the standard in any one study or had 100 demerits in any six months was dismissed to make way for a more competent man. The Academic Board were strictly just and cared no more for a cadet, be he even the son of an intimate friend, than they did for a dead mule: attain the standard or go home.

In those days the code of honor was so high that only one graduate went astray financially in a century. Political intrigue was unknown; merit prevailed and every West Pointer was a natural born enemy of a contractor. This was so notoriously a

fact that, at the beginning of the Contractors' War of 1898, every West Pointer was carefully removed from the head of every Department, excepting, of course, the engineering and ordnance, which contained none but graduates.

Our army has become increasingly expensive **pro rata.** We spend too much money to please the ladies. Officers should know that their duties are arduous and intellectual, and that they should not compete with potted plants as parlor decorations at receptions. Brains, not uniforms, make soldiers.

No matter whether our army, in time of peace, be large or small, it will be useless if it is a mere foot-ball for politicians —we must return to "the ideals of the old army"—our officers must be soldiers, and neither they nor their wives should be politicians. Preferment must come from merit only. It is simply suicide and murder to place the command of troops in the hands of noisy politicians or "mammas' pets" who have the backing of a senator. Back to the old days that preceded McKinley and Roosevelt.

Politics must be eliminated from the army.

4. DISCIPLINED BATTALIONS.

The best general is helpless, if his battalions be undisciplined. Soldiers without discipline soon become a mob, either in the intoxication of victory or the humiliation of defeat. But good generals will make good soldiers.

Discipline in a soldier is what character is in a citizen. Discipline is a growth, and, when attained, it is priceless. A good soldier obeys orders implicitly, without thinking. It takes years to make disciplined battalions out of crude material, but excellent battalions can be made in short order out of intelligent, enthusiastic and patriotic youths, and it is the youths who always fight the battles of a great patriotic war.

Our wars are fought by boys. The following are the statistics of the Civil War:

Total enlistments in the Northern Armies	2,778,309
Total enlistments 10 years of age or under	25
Total enlistments 12 years of age or under	225
Total enlistments 14 years of age or under	1,523

Total enlistments 16 years of age or under	884,891
Total enlistments 18 years of age or under	1,151,438
Total enlistments 21 years of age or under	2,159,798
Total enlistments over 21 years of age	618,511

That is to say: Nearly one-half of all enlistments were aged 18 years or under; nearly 80% were 21 or under and only about 20% were over 21.

I would care for no better troops than our own colored infantry and cavalry. They work more and grumble less than their white brothers. They are brave, faithful, industrious, obedient and loyal to their officers. They were crude material to begin with, and it has taken years to make them such magnificent soldiers.

The colored regiments should be multiplied and their officers should be the choicest in the army.

But where are our soldiers to come from in the event of attack by a foreign foe that might suddenly throw itself on our shores? We must have **disciplined** battalions, and have them in a hurry. Our programme has already provided in advance for a finer

army than the world has ever yet seen, and as large as any emergency might require.

Substantially every American lad **goes to school**; every week he "salutes the flag"; his **love of country** and **patriotism** are developed with his budding intelligence. If the flag were in danger, he would leap to its defense. A very large proportion of our lads enter the grammar school. In the common schools, colleges and technical schools there are millions of students. Our plan for providing adequate competent subordinate officers provides for drills, target practice and lectures twice as frequently as in the National Guard. If a boy should spend but two or three years in grammar school, he would have received instruction and drill that would make him efficient as a soldier equal to any in the regular army in his first enlistment, and he would have received this instruction during those plastic years in which he would no more forget his tactics than his alphabet. Though not sufficiently trained for officers, they would be already well trained soldiers, ready for any emergency. The first bugle blast of alarm that the flag was in danger, would call to the colors millions of these trained and intelligent

soldiers whose enthusiastic patriotism would sweep into the ocean any army of mercenaries or peasants that a fatuous monarch might dare land on the shores of this Land of the Free and Home of the Brave.

In the event of a great national crisis, like the invasion of our country, in a single month, ten millions of young enthusiasts would spring to the colors, 33% of whom would be competent to enter the engineer corps of any foreign army. We must not confuse for a moment the quality of material in educated America with the peasantry of Europe. Even in Germany, where the soldiers can read and write, they can do little more. They cannot think and invent; they have not the educated, intelligent, inventive and creative brains of the American youth.

We have the finest material for armies in the world and, with our high school and college graduates trained in the art of war, we would, in short order, transform this material into superlative soldiers.

The early days of the Civil War developed some mistakes; but they were the mistakes of ignorant levies and of junior officers. The country was poor in arms and

munitions and, in the North, military spirit lay dormant. The poor sheep that were pushed off the field in the first battle of Bull Run scarcely knew the dangerous end of a gun. They did know that the butt end was dangerous because it kicked them; but the muzzle was comparatively harmless, for they could hit nothing they aimed at. The junior officers scarcely knew "Fours, right about" from a double somersault. But the "poor sheep" of '61 became, under efficient leadership, the heroes of '62. Our recruits flocked to the Potomac frontier, but were sent back until our agents could scour Europe for old, rusty muskets for which we paid exorbitant prices; yet the general officers on both sides displayed skill, and soon brought order out of chaos. The Commissary and Quartermaster departments were conducted without scandal. It took some time to teach the Yankee how to ride a horse; but what magnificent cavalry followed at the heels of young "Phil" Sheridan in 1864!

The Southern boy was brought up with a horse and a gun. He was a natural born soldier and needed little training. The Northern troops had the best instructors in

the world. The Armies of the South taught them.

The Civil War had scientific leaders pitted against scientific leaders; and raw levies rapidly developed into hardened veterans. The Southrons, with fewer resources, but with the great advantage of the defensive, fought like tigers and died like heroes, till, leadership being equal, the God of Battles placed the wreath of victory on the banners of the heaviest battalions. Skillful leaders make skillful troops; and we have the authority of General Grant for saying that the seasoned veterans that passed in the last review before President Johnson at Washington in 1865 were the best troops the world ever saw. For there are no soldiers like patriotic, intelligent and educated soldiers of experience. If Napoleon Bonaparte could have had one army corps like them at Waterloo, where his soldiers were schoolboys, and his marshals "small change"—well, all Europe might have been France today. But he could not have them. That kind of flower does not bloom under monarchies. It takes the rich soil of liberty and the hot sun of national necessity to develop such

intelligent, enthusiastic and unselfish patriotism.

But politics will destroy patriotism and dishearten effort—**Politics must be eliminated from the army.**

5. MILITARY RESOURCES.

The first great military resource consists of men, inspired with zeal, patriotism and aggressive initiative. Americans are specially endowed with qualifications that would make good soldiers in war and good executives in peace. As regards men, we have nothing lacking.

Next, the troops must be fed, and equipped with clothing, arms and munitions. We have sufficient land which, if subjected to intensive agriculture, would almost feed the world. Three factories are said to have entered into contracts to deliver ten millions of rifles to foreign combatants. Cotton factories, instead of making cloth, are turning out smokeless powder. Even the Waltham Company is making clock work for bombs. Our facilities for arming, equipping and sustaining troops are simply enormous, and you can trust the inventive genius of the Yankee to produce some new device against each new offensive of the enemy.

Our government factories could, by working two shifts per day, turn out 1,500 Springfield rifles daily. This, of course, is ridiculously small. The government at the close of this war should take over plants that would not then be needed by their owners, which should permit us to turn out, in an emergency, 50,000 a day, or 15,000,000 stands of arms in a year. These plants could be utilized, in part, in other directions in times of peace.

We have now on hand 700,000 Springfield rifles. They are said to be the finest arm extant. We should have two millions on hand. The government will not sell a Springfield rifle for love or money, except to rifle clubs. These superior arms should be sold at cost to any citizen. The people should become accustomed to them and their simple, yet effective mechanism. The unwarlike Chinese are not allowed the use of gunpowder.

It takes months to build a field gun. Our field batteries should be multiplied reasonably, and each field gun should be of the very latest invention.

Howitzers and mortars of large calibre, capable of being used as siege guns, with the aid of motor trucks, take a long time

to build, and the government should appropriate a reasonable sum for their manufacture.

Seacoast guns of long range take still more time in preparation, and they should be built continuously. The government should increase its facilities for turning out these guns for our seacoast defenses and warships.

BUT disciplined battalions are an absolutely necessary pre-requisite for success in war—and discipline and the Art of War cannot be acquired in a month of "play soldier" by rheumatic old men in a summer camp. Besides, a large standing army in time of peace is not only enormously expensive in money but in the waste of human effort that should be expended in productive pursuits.

However, has it occurred to you that the enormous cost of a large standing army—for **our** armies cost far more than foreign—will no longer be provided for by a tariff where the poor have to bear the burden; the income tax has become popular: the rich will have to pay the freight. Have no fear, then, that we shall have a large army in time of peace. The rich wouldn't stand for its cost. Besides,

where would you get the men? Americans won't enlist in time of peace. Experience has proved that. Conscription would mean revolution; and you couldn't **keep** them if you **conscripted** them. One half of the regular army deserted during the civil war. Look at the record. Look at our present desertions. What would they be if the army were filled with sullen conscripts who wanted to be running banks and railroads, not digging experimental trenches. Talk of chasing rainbows, of iridescent dreams, of reaching after fixed stars! They are scientific farming compared to a large American army in time of peace. Americans who vote won't stand for it, and Americans who pull the strings of Congress won't stand for the expense.

Besides, will not the hysteria of a large standing army be cured on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1916?

Let politics let the army alone.

We should, of course, keep on hand a reasonable quantity of mines for the defense of all harbors, and have government plants for manufacturing them, and the high explosives used in them, although we have, no doubt, abundant private plants to

furnish the world with powder and munitions. However, to keep politics and Big Business out of the army, the government should manufacture everything needed for the army.

THE NAVY.

DEFENSE AGAINST INVASION

Paid agents of munition and armor-plate manufacturers, nominally representing Preparedness Societies, are roaming about, painting frightful pictures of an English or Japanese dreadnaught standing twenty miles off shore and bombarding our coast, while our forts are helpless, every shot dropping one mile short of the mark. Arrant nonsense.

We have as fine guns as ever were built. We probably need more; but the War Department is so close-mouthed that no one —not even a foreign military or naval attache—can steal exact information concerning them. Before a hostile fleet could approach New York, the outer Harbor would be strewn with mines, and an unknown second lieutenant in the Woolworth tower, armed with a telescope and range finder, would touch a button, and a hostile ship, thirty miles off shore, would sink be-

yond resurrection. Besides, one gun on shore equals a battleship afloat.

The late Spanish-American War demonstrated beyond controversy the efficiency of our navy. The naval battles of Manila and Santiago astonished, not to say startled, Continental Europe, as did Marengo and Austerlitz. The United States leaped suddenly, like a full-grown giant, into the arena of world politics, and is recognized at once as the most resourceful military power in the world.

The American navy has surprised the world by its superb discipline, accurate markmanship, mechanical perfection, and strategic skill. The student of the art of war will analyze the manoeuvres of Dewey at Manila, and find them thoroughly scientific. The Admiral displayed energy, audacity, and skill—the salient features of leadership in war.

The naval orders governing the blockade of the rat-trap at Santiago were strategically correct and were executed without error. After weeks of weary and fruitless watching, the enemy sought to escape at the moment when it was hoped the blockaders would be unprepared; but **within two minutes** the battle was on with terrific

frenzy, and in **twenty minutes** one of the most decisive naval engagements of history was practically won.

During the Civil War our naval operations were useful models for study; and new models in naval architecture were developed that revolutionized warfare on the sea. Since then our navy seems to have kept pace with modern inventions of this inventive century; and all its forces—ships, officers, and men—are thoroughly up to date, constituting, probably, the most highly organized and scientific naval establishment in the world. We need a larger navy, of course,—large enough to command respect, but not large enough to inspire fear.

Is this development the evolution of chance? The United States Naval Academy at Annapolis was established in 1845, and has graduated the most highly educated corps of naval specialists in the world. Substantially all of the officers of our navy are graduates of the Academy, all but about a dozen out of 774 line officers on January 1, 1898; all are students; all are men who have devoted a lifetime of systematic study to the theory as well as the practice of their profession. In the Naval

Academy is found the secret of our recent victories. Scientific officers make a scientific navy.

Our navy is perfection because all its officers are scientific sailors. Did it make our politicians seasick to ride a horse, our army would be equally favored and equally efficient. It is the politicians who are poison to the army. The Naval Academy is the mother of the navy, the Military Academy is the step-mother of the army. The one reveres its mother and follows her precepts; the other, unable to comprehend its step-mother, is jealous of her influence. The difference is seen in the scientific manoeuvres before Santiago on the sea and in the haphazard manoeuvres around it on the land. Utilize our scientific officers, and we shall have a scientific army.

Pay no attention to professional knockers and paid employes of the shipbuilders who proclaim our navy obsolete and ineffective. Remember the cable of Captain Cook of the Oregon on his historic voyage around the Horn: "Don't tangle me up with orders. I am not afraid of the whole Spanish Navy."

Of course, in this transition period of naval architecture, everything we have

ought to go to the junk heap every twenty or thirty years. **But so ought other nations'**. This is an argument for slow, not precipitate haste. Let appropriations for the navy be liberal, but not foolish or hysterical. Utilize the inventive genius of this Yankee nation. Have no fear; other nations will follow us in the future as they have in the past. We lead, not follow.

We have few bird-men, but they are teaching Europeans how to fly. We could make a thousand aeroplanes and dirigibles in one year if a crisis required. One is now building six times larger than the largest German aeroplane.

Our newest submarines are the best to date. What would not Germany give for a hundred of them? Who knows how many are now being turned out by private concerns? I dare not tell you. No submarine manufactured abroad is equipped with the gyroscopic stabilizer or gyroscopic compass, new Yankee inventions that are indispensable for efficient undersea warfare. The stabilizer is also applied to aeroplanes. Let some rash foreign power attack us and see what will happen.

We are proud of our navy—of its skill above the water, on the water, and under

the water. Give it enough of the best of each class to keep its hand in and when the necessity arises, have no fear that they will not be multiplied in abundance.

In no war has our navy ever failed us. From Paul Jones to Dewey it has always covered the flag with glory. Have no fear for its future.

In order to double the navy's usefulness we should construct the Nicaragua Canal. This route is 800 miles shorter, between New York and San Francisco, than the Panama; has no unsolved engineering problems, and never has had; the government has already spent millions in surveys, plans, etc., and it could be built cheaply and quickly, while the Nicaragua land grants would pay for the canal over and over again.

A HOSTILE INVASION

But what is to hinder a hostile force from landing through the surf anywhere on the Atlantic Coast and marching direct upon undefended New York? Just what our warships would be doing while this disembarkation is going on is not stated, and what havoc a few thousand troops on shore would do in such circumstances, is not even hinted at. "Did not our troops

land through the surf in Cuba?'' Certainly, but not even a tired Spaniard, who was anxious to get whipped and sent home, opposed their landing. As it was, it took our commanding officer five days to get off his ship, waiting until a dock could be built to take him ashore.

A Scotchman and an Irishman were discussing this very proposition. The Scotchman remarked: ''What would prevent 100,000 Englishmen from landing on the coast and marching straight into New York City?'' The Irishman replied: ''The police wouldn't let 'em.''

Let us assume that a hostile force of half a million men were landed in North Carolina and started towards New York.

With our modern firearms, of high initial velocity, low trajectory, great range and extreme precision, everything is to the advantage of the defensive. A single regiment might withstand an army. The regiment could intrench themselves overnight on the military crest of a ridge and the intrenchments could scarcely be observed. Bushels of cartridges could be dumped into the trench, while the attacking force, having to carry its scanty munitions, would be annihilated. To be sure, their

great guns could, in time, destroy trenches, but they would have to keep on destroying successive trenches, and in the meantime a million men would surround them, capture them, give them a good square American meal, and then send them out West to grow up with the country and get naturalized in five years.

To be sure, the tables are turned when the invaders intrench and take the defensive, but our invaders would have hundreds of miles of fighting midst a hostile people, and would be opposed by levies so enthusiastic that they would rush in and seize them with their fists, if they were unarmed.

The day of expensive fortifications has passed. Even at West Point they no longer spend months in drawing Noiset and Vauban fronts. The engineering of trenches is far more useful.

Of course, Strategy, which is the tactics of generals, remains the same through the ages. It may vary in its details with the difference of arms and means of transportation, but its principles are the same.

The advantage of a defensive and of competent leadership was never better illustrated than in the battle of San Juan, July 1, 1898. Two companies of Span-

iards, 250 men, made slight intrenchments on the military crest of San Juan overnight. They were attacked by nearly 7,500 Americans—30 to 1. (We do not include the bloody fight at El Caney; that was a different proposition.) These 250 Spaniards, with their smokeless powder and without useful artillery, for the batteries were far in the rear, killed or wounded, according to the official figures, over 1,000 Americans, while there is no record of a dead Spaniard. Write to the War Department and see if they have any such record. A private letter speaks of seeing eight dead Spaniards. Every Spaniard killed or wounded four Americans.

To be sure, this horrible slaughter was due to the incompetence of the commanding officers, old men and "statesmen," who were jealous of their younger and more energetic and more highly educated and up-to-date juniors. General Kent, commanding the center, admitted under oath that there had been no reconnaisance and that they knew nothing about the position of the enemy. The ordinary military precautions were omitted and yet there were scores of young, competent, impatient officers who would have been only too glad

to have taken the usual military precautions, if they had been permitted; and if a young, energetic, educated man had been in command, there would probably not have been a single life lost at San Juan, and the Spaniards would have been forced to surrender their fortifications at Santiago with substantially no loss to the invaders.

Have no fear of any hostile army landing on our shores and entering New York from the rear. Why, the women would scratch out the eyes of the invaders with their hatpins, if they could not get carving knives. The sooner European nations understand the American spirit the better. We are not mollycoddles or ignorant peasants.

Neither England nor Japan has either the desire or the foolhardiness to attack this resourceful nation. No other nation would dare to. We are a great military giant. We have resources enough to conquer the world, if we had the brutality and lack of principle of the ancient Romans. But we are a Christian nation, and it is our duty to prepare ourselves along military lines to such an extent as not only to pre-

vent attack from abroad, but to impose peace on the world.

I look forward, during a single generation, when the entire world will become so enlightened that every homogeneous people will be a republic, with a constitution appropriate to its own needs. Only homogenuous people are strong and happy. Kings will be forgotten; tyrants a faint memory; great armaments converted into statues of peace, and all the world will be at peace under the protecting aegis of the Star-Spangled Banner that represents the giant Republic of the West.

"O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

Let us extend the Monroe Doctrine to republics everywhere, until all the world is at peace. Should this war leave any country of Europe strong enough to stand alone on its own legs, and brash enough to attemp to invade any American republic, small or large, we would simply let loose our navy, the most efficient in the world, and let foreign nations see what we can do. An efficient army would soon follow.

To sum the matter up, what do we need

to prepare ourselves for a great defensive war?

1. We have the educated officers from which to select a competent leader. This connotes the suppression of old men and politicians.

2. We have a corps of highly educated military specialists.

3. We must provide an abundance of educated subordinate officers.

4. Utilize what material we can get for a standing army. **Our** educated officers can, in time, make good soldiers out of anything.

In the event of war, patriotic volunteers could soon be whipped into shape by competent officers. Our schools would, in a single generation, convert every American into a citizen soldier, ready to die for the right, and too consciencious to fight for the wrong. The people should be encouraged in the use of our military rifle.

5. Let the government increase its store of rifles, and its field, siege, and seacoast guns; its mines, explosives, and all equipments, and plants for their manufacture.

Give the navy the best ships of each kind—above the water, on the water and

under the water—enough to keep their hands in, but not enough to frighten or estrange other natians, or to impoverish the people with excessive taxation. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," and one of the strongest inducements to imitate us would be the prosperity and contentment of an unoppressed, lightly taxed people.

To all this preparedness we must add a peaceable and unselfish mental attitude towards everybody, especially the afflicted nations of Europe. Stretch out the hand to help, and during the ensuing millenium of peace all the world will bless the Great Republic whose example shall have been the most powerful factor in giving them the blessings they have so long coveted—all men are brothers, and we will be a Big Brother, and not a bully.

We fear no foreign foe. We want no enemy. We seek the affectionate regards of all. We would lift up all men to our own envied plane of liberty, safety and unoppressive government, not forgetting that to do this we must be a nation of character, and no nation can have character unless its statutes conform to the

statutes of God, and are enforced by upright men, remembering the words of Isaiah (lx, 12):

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

Part II

MASONIC PREPAREDNESS
OR
MASONRY AND THE WAR

MASONIC
PREPAREDNESS
OR
MASONRY AND THE WAR

War is h——
Masonry is fraternity and love.

Masonry is a moral philosophy founded on a belief in God and immortality, and teaching a Code of Morals founded on the Holy Bible. Its essential belief is the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. To Masons, all men are brothers.

Masonry and war are antipodal. And yet, there are Masons on both sides of this, the greatest and most barbaric war in history, at least, since the days of Ghengis Khan. How do you account for it? We don't account for it, except on the theory that even house dogs somtimes go mad, and that, occasionally, the most highly civilized peoples will revert to original types.

A wild rose, by cultivation, becomes the American Beauty. A wolf, by association with man, becomes a lap dog. After a few generations of **neglect**, each will revert to its original type.

In this war, civilized man seems to have reverted to a very bad type of savage. Where is the neglect?

What is the cause of all this? We have not space to demonstrate the cause; merely to state it. The cause is religious neglect, resulting in a total want of true religion. It will be found that certain ruling and dominating classes in Europe—persons who **think** themselves, or at least **call** themselves devout Christians, believers in Jehovah, and followers of His Divine Son, —have really neglected or abandoned the worship of God altogether, and have substituted in His place a man-made god. Call it Force, if you will; call it Thor, or Jupiter, or Mars, or the deified idea that Might Makes Right.

No one can read the works of certain prominent writers who have influenced this generation in Europe, as Voltaire and Rousseau influenced the generation preceding the French Revolution, without seeing that those classes who control have

gradually and, probably unknowingly, abandoned the worship of God and have substituted the worship of FORCE. When they have accomplished that fact they themselves have become savages. When rulers cease to worship the God of Love, they revert to original types—want of true religion is the cause of this war.

The Romans likewise worshiped power and might, and jeered at Truth. When Pompey captured the triremes of Caesar in the Adriatic Sea, he knew nothing of Jehovah, or the Ten Commandments, or the Sermon on the Mount, or the Good Samaritan. To dispose of his prisoners, he scuttled the ships and drowned them like rats. That was the direct effect of the worship of Jupiter.

When Admiral von Tirpitz sent out the submarine which struck the **Lusitania**, he drowned like rats, not armed enemies, helpless captives, but women and children of friendly nations. It was the direct result of the worship of Thor, the god of Bernhardi, Nietzsche and Treitschke.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

To think oneself a thinker may be a menace to the community. The over-uneducated professors of Europe, for a whole

generation, have drifted away from orthodox Christianity, and the effects have been felt in all European nations and in America as well.

While this gradual drift was apparent in orthodox circles, the actual eating away of the moral fibre of the ruling classes, and the substitution of the worship of Force for Jehovah, was scarcely noticed, even by themselves, and yet the effects have been appalling.

These effects have been less marked on the Common People, but this is a war of rulers, and of the military class, not of the people.

We see the results. If the last generation had been true to Christian and Masonic ideals, and had not unconsciously drifted away from their religious and Masonic Code of Morals, this war could never have happened.

The foundation of religion—a belief in Jehovah, and a practice of the Code of Morals founded in His Holy Book,—has been undermined. True Masonry has been prostituted; true Christianity has been veiled in fog, and the result is FRIGHTFULNESS.

There is but One God: He has no brother;

He recognizes no twin. His name is "Jehovah", (Ex. VI, 2 & 3). He is Creator, King, High Priest, Father, Elder Brother. His attributes are known by revelation in Holy Writ. They are illustrated and illumined in the life of His Only Begotten Son. Dominant among His attributes are Justice and Love. HIS name never connotes Brute Force, or Might Makes Right, or any carnal desire. When a man or nations come to worship Force by the name of God, he and they have, unconsciously perhaps, changed God's definition of Himself. They worship a god, not God. Merely **saying** that you worship God does not make it so.

In Athens, it was said that there were 30,000 gods and it was easier to find a god than a man. Each god represented some exaggerated human vice or desire. There were many gods but there is but one God.

A man may be as highly educated and polished and as commercially and professionally efficient as Stanford White—he may be able to wear a full dress suit at receptions and look as if he owned it; a nation may be at the forefront in science, literature, art and efficiency; if in his or its heart the "desire" is carnal, and the god

representing that desire is worshiped, the worshiper will grow to be like his god, and will become carnal.

We repeat:—Religion, or rather a want of the essentials of true religion, is the cause of this war.

The Grand Lodge of Holland has sent out a circular to the other Grand Lodges asking their co-operation in re-establishing proper conditions at the close of this war, along Masonic lines. This may have seemed a strange appeal, but it was not. Jehovah, the God of the Jew, the God of the Christian, who is the God of the Mason (for Masonry though not religion is the hand-maiden of religion) never deserts His people. He may purge them as by fire, but greater blessings come out of the refinery in a choicer product, and we confidently look forward to the most beneficent results to flow from this wholesale holocaust.

No peace is yet in sight and peace now is not desirable. Peace today would be a calamity. It would mean the perpetuation of past conditions. It would mean the continuance of armaments and of standing armies, and of "Busy Berthas," and the continued deification of Thor, the god of

force. Children and grandchildren would continue to be slaves, working early and late to pay the enormous debts of this conflict of tyrants. Present abhorrent conditions would prevail; the silly habit of enduring Kings would continue; and armaments, secret treaties and diplomatic fibs would still be regarded as right and desirable. Take away absolute rulers from armies, and especially prohibit secret treaties and the endorsement of Machiavellian diplomatic methods, and you have taken away the power to make friendly peoples fight one another for reasons of which they are wholly ignorant. If peoples declared war, wars would be few.

Nothing good can come out of this Nazareth until all of these abhorent influences are absolutely destroyed. It is too late for a doctor; call in an undertaker. After the peoples of Europe have become exhausted —exhausted from slaughter, disease, pestilence, hunger—after the people are good and hungry, and not till then, will they rise in their might, throw their war lords into the discard, and organize the United States of Europe, imitating the 48 sensible American States who live together in harmony, without armaments, or hostile ar-

mies or hostile tariff walls, having no contention save only "that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."

Therein is the consummation devoutly to be wished. Is this a mere desire? No, it is more than that. Call it a prophecy, if you will. Greece may be a republic within thirty days—just as soon as the people get tired of a monarch who thwarts their will. Let the Kaiser give the Czar another good thrashing and the Duma will assert itself, and the people's reign will begin in Russia. It requires no 7th son of a 7th son to prophesy the reign of Common Sense in Europe, after the people have been afflicted severely enough, and appreciate the fact that their exhaustion is due to their kings, their secret treaties and lying diplomacy. When both sides are exhausted and hungry, and **disgusted with a war**, not of their own choosing, common sense may pay them a visit.

When conditions are ripe, the appeal of the Grand Lodge of Holland will be met. The dominant influence of the Grand Lodges of America will inspire this great Republic, this great giant of the West, to exercise its influence towards the creation

of a universal federation or republic as the only sure foundation of a Millenium of Peace.

This is not mere sentiment or desire. It is a reasonable probability, and the fulfilment of the prophecy may be seen within the next five years.

The United States is the most powerful military nation of the world—powerful in patriotic sons, in wealth, in brains, in resources (food, supplies and factories for munitions and arms), and it has the most highly educated military specialists in the graduates of its military academy, who would make the most competent commanders. Get rid of the old men and the politicians in Europe and then you will see victories. They need a few real American soldiers to teach them how to fight. A walking stick and a monocle have no place in the trenches.

We have men, education, brains, wealth and resources; we lack an abundance of educated subordinate officers, but under present tendencies, our schools will soon turn them out in abundance.

We have the most efficient navy in the world, and it would not take long to create an efficient army, sufficiently large, at least,

for defensive purposes; and American sentiment would not tolerate a war of aggression.

At the conclusion of this war, the United States will be the only first-class military power left. If any European nations shall then be strong enough to stand up on their legs, we could whip a dozen of them if they should attack us—and they are sick enough; the longer this war continues, the sicker, weaker and the poorer they will get, while **we** will grow healthier, stronger and richer. Brains and resources count, and America has both the brains and the resources. Besides, before this war is over we will own all of their bonds, and then say:—"Peace, be still; go to work, and pay up."

" O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant. "

America has the greatest of all parts to play in the reconstruction of the world, soon to take place. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. If America is worthy of imitation, we will be flattered. To be worthy, our laws must conform to the commandments of God, and their execution be in the hands of worthy men. It is

the duty of Masons to see to it that we have a model government, worthy of imitation. That is true Masonic Preparedness.

Let us make a suggestion: Stretch forth the hand of this Giant of the West to impose peace on the world; extend the Monroe Doctrine to republics everywhere; protect every free country in her right to live in peace. Let every homogeneous people be a republic, with a constitution appropriate to its own needs, for only homogeneous peoples are strong and happy. A republic, above all nations, is unfitted to rule over subject races, for an individual tyrant is restrained by fear of assassination, while a collective tyrant, like a republic, is absolutely unrestrained. As a master, it is always brutal; that is the history of republics. See how we have civilized our Indians—into heaven, on the theory that the only good Indian is a dead one.

To accomplish these grand results, America must be unselfish, and must be right. She can be only right and charitable when dominated by Christian principles.

The ideal America is a Masonic America, the friend of all mankind, a Big Brother, ready to defend and help. In the ideal

America there is liberty of conscience, protection to life and property and freedom from oppressive militarism, and excessive taxation. Compulsory army service is the root of militarism.

Our people have only kindest feelings and deepest sympathy for all other peoples. Indeed **all peoples** have nothing but friendly feelings for one another; only rulers are hostile; and by rulers we do not mean Kings only who are often merely puppets in the hands of bureaucrocies, army machines and manufacturers of armaments and munitions.

Our Christian character as a nation will be demonstrated at the close of this war in our unselfishness, and the boundless charity with which we aid our afflicted brothers, and the strong hand of love with which we assist in bringing them back to their former prosperity. We will bind up their wounds.

Who can foretell what startling **blessings** may, under God's providence, arise out of this war, which may turn the world upside down? Startling **changes** there certainly will be, and America, the big brother of the world, rich in resources and in brotherly love and benevolence, should be a domi-

nant influence in imposing liberty and peace on the exhausted peoples of earth. The greatest American patriot is he who devotes his energies to making America right, so that its example and influence may aid to fashion a new world, blessed by world-liberty and peace.

The great Masonic duty of the hour is to strive to give our country a correct "mental attitude" towards all afflicted nations, without invideous distinctions, so that when our time shall come, we may be able to help solve the new world-problems along the lines of The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of all Men. Who shall say that free America, blessed so abundantly by God, shall not be His instrument to fulfill the prophecy:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: **and the government SHALL be upon his shoulder;** and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, THE PRINCE OF PEACE." (Isaiah IX, 6.)

To sum the whole matter up, let Europe be reconstructed along Masonic lines, as

suggested in the appeal of the GRAND LODGE OF HOLLAND. Let us, therefore, prepare ourselves for MASONIC PREPAREDNESS.

ALEXANDER CIX

(The Kismet-ite, Brooklyn, N. Y., February, 1916.)

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

suggested in the appeal of the GRAND LODGE OF HOLLAND. Let us, therefore, prepare ourselves for MASONIC PREPAREDNESS.

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